

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3409

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MOVEMENT ON MINIMUM CURRENCY EXCHANGE

1. ACCORDING TO ADN REPORT, SPOKESMAN FOR GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY DECLARED MAY 21 THAT GDR PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP WAS FOLLOWING "WITH INTEREST" BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF SCHMIDT GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION. LEADERSHIP SHARED SCHMIDT'S VIEW THAT, DESPITE STRESSES IN RELATIONSHIP, NASCENT FRG-GDR TREATY STRUCTURE SHOULD BE NURTURED AND FURTHER DEVELOPED. SPOKESMAN STATED THAT HE COULD CONFIRM, IN NAME OF HONECKER, THAT "FULL NOTICE" WOULD BE TAKEN OF WEHNER'S REMARKS CONCERNING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF FRG-GDR RELATIONS. SPECIFICALLY GDR WAS PREPARED TO EXAMINE WEHNER PROPOSALS REGARDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS, CURRENCY EXCHANGE, AND ENERGY TIES.

2. ADN ITEM FOLLOWED ON HEELS OF BONN-DATELINED REPORT
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BY ND CORRESPONDENT DIETER WOLF ON MAY 20 BUNDESTAG

DEBATE, CARRIED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND MAY 21, WHICH CITED AT LENGTH AND IN APPROVING TONE REMARKS MADE BY WEHNER IN RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION CRITIQUE OF GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM, INCLUDING HIS REFERENCE TO EFFORTS TO RESOLVE MINIMUM-CURRENCY EXCHANGE DISPUTE, TO FURTHER DEVELOP ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS, AND TO ESTABLISH TIES IN ENERGY FIELD. HIGH-LEVEL SENAT OFFICIALS INDICATED TO MISSION OFFICERS THAT THEY CONSIDERED ND ARTICLE POSITIVE GDR RESPONSE TO FRG-SENAT INITIATIVES, AND THAT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF MINIMUM CURRENCY-EXCHANGE PROBLEM MIGHT AS RESULT BE FORTHCOMING.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE PLAYLET SUGGESTS GDR FELT NEED TO RE-BUILD BRIDGES TO BONN FOLLOWING GUILLAUME AFFAIR AND BEARS STRONG IMPLICATION OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND GDR TO SET STAGE. SPF IN TURN HAS OWN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATING NEW GOVERNMENT IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING ON OSTPOLITIK AND HAS NOT HAD ITS STYLE UNDULY CRIMPED BY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT CAME INTO BEING.KLEIN

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